

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.- 16. (canceled).

17. (new): A machine for transferring initially aligned objects in successive rows, comprising a first conveyor having a first displacement direction and arranged for supplying the objects placed in line one after the other along said first displacement direction, wherein said machine comprises:

a second conveyor comprising a fixed tray placed to the side of said first conveyor and extending transversely to said first displacement direction along a second direction, and

object moving means provided with at least one pushing member movable transversely to said first conveyor along said second direction,

wherein said pushing member comes into lateral contact with n objects on said first conveyor and push them together on said tray being arranged in one row extending substantially perpendicularly to said second direction while moving them in said second direction, and

wherein said first and second directions are mutually arranged with an angle θ between 0 and 90°, limits excluded ($\theta \neq 0$, $\theta \neq 90^\circ$),

whereby the objects have speed components in the directions of movement of said first and second conveyors, respectively, which are never zero.

18. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 17, wherein said first and second conveyors are mutually arranged with an angle θ between approximately 20° and 70° .

19. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 17, wherein said first and second conveyors are mutually arranged with an angle θ of approximately 45° .

20. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 17, wherein said second conveyor is adapted for moving the objects on a substantially rectilinear trajectory, and wherein said second conveyor comprises several pushing members which are substantially parallel and supported by endless running support means extending in a plane approximately perpendicular to the plane of transfer of the objects.

21. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 20, wherein said endless running support means comprise an endless chain supporting pushing members which have each at least one end and wherein said pushing members overhang said endless chain at said respective ends.

22. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 20, wherein said endless running support means comprise two parallel endless chains supporting pushing members which have each two ends and wherein said pushing members are supported by said respective ends thereof.

23. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 17, wherein said second conveyor is adapted for moving the objects on a curvilinear trajectory, and wherein said second conveyor comprises several pushing members supported by support means mobile on a closed curvilinear trajectory which is partially parallel to said trajectory of said objects.

24. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 23, wherein said support means are rotatable about a vertical shaft, and wherein said pushing members are arranged radially overhanging.

25. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 23, wherein said support means comprise at least one endless chain which curvilinearly extends parallel to said tray, and wherein said pushing members are arranged radially overhanging.

26. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein said first conveyor moves the objects placed one after the other, and wherein each pushing member is brought laterally to said first conveyor in order to contact the first n objects present on said first conveyor.

27. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 26, wherein the objects on said first conveyor are juxtaposed to one another.

28. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 26, wherein the objects on said first conveyor are separated from one another by a given pitch.

29. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 23, wherein said first conveyor moves the objects placed one after the other, and wherein each pushing member is brought laterally to said first conveyor in order to contact the first n objects present on said first conveyor.

30. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 29, wherein the objects on said first conveyor are juxtaposed to one another.

31. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 29, wherein the objects on said first conveyor are separated from one another by a given pitch.

32. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the objects on said first conveyor are separated from one another by a given pitch, and wherein said pushing member is interposed between the object numbers n and $n+1$ (counted from the head object on said first conveyor).

33. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 27, wherein the objects are juxtaposed one after the other on said first conveyor, and wherein said machine comprises, associated with said first conveyor, separator means adapted for separating the objects from one another by a given pitch.

34. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 29, wherein the objects are juxtaposed one after the other on said first conveyor, and wherein said machine comprises, associated with said first conveyor, separator means adapted for separating the objects from one another by a given pitch.

35. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein grouping means adapted for imparting a given gap between the object numbers \underline{n} and $\underline{n}+1$, which are counted from the head object on said first conveyor, are associated with said first conveyor, and wherein said pushing member is interposed in the gap created between said object numbers \underline{n} and $\underline{n}+1$.

36. (new): The machine as claimed in claim 17, wherein each pushing member is a bar.